TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL

LGOIMA Response – No Comparative Analysis or Ratepayer Modelling

Official Information Request IN/55091 | Response dated 28 July 2026

1. Purpose of this Note

This note records the formal response of Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) to a Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 request concerning expenditure on flood and coastal hazard work, comparative analysis of infrastructure protection versus managed retreat pathways, and modelling of long-term impacts on ratepayers and council revenue. It is prepared as a public-interest transparency record.

2. Request Summary

The request (dated 30 June 2026) sought:

- Total expenditure by TRC on external consultants, advisors, or contractors for work related to flood protection, river management, coastal hazard assessment, managed retreat, property acquisition, or climate adaptation planning from 1 July 2020 to the present, with breakdown by financial year and major project/area where possible.
- Any reports, briefings, technical assessments, or analysis prepared since 2020 comparing or assessing the costs, benefits, risks, or long-term outcomes of major infrastructure protection options versus managed retreat, property acquisition, or voluntary buyout pathways in the Taranaki region.
- Any modelling or advice on the long-term impacts on ratepayers, property values, or council revenue from large-scale property acquisition or managed retreat in the region.

3. Key Formal Admissions by Taranaki Regional Council

On comparative analysis (Question 2):

“We have no reports, as no analysis has been undertaken.”

On ratepayer / property-value / revenue modelling (Question 3):

“No modelling has been undertaken by TRC, and there has been no large-scale property acquisitions or managed retreat.”

These are unambiguous written statements. TRC confirms it holds no comparative analysis of infrastructure protection options versus managed retreat/buyout pathways, and has undertaken no modelling of long-term ratepayer, property-value, or rating-revenue impacts from such pathways.

4. Expenditure Summary (from TRC spreadsheet)

TRC provided a breakdown of amounts paid to external parties by product/category and financial year (July–June). Key totals (rounded):

Category	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Consulting	35,843	32,645	18,880	59,571	56,252	50,567
Flood Damage	—	1,590	2,000	—	—	271,474
General works rivers	23,680	53,503	61,320	43,141	60,229	35,972
North Taranaki Scheme Maint.	65,660	63,492	53,336	98,120	109,917	108,562
Opunake River Works	1,782	825	1,186	1,255	1,895	3,230

Waitotara River Works	31,620	50,148	47,590	1,400	39,236	5,950
NbS Project	—	—	—	3,350	178,238	13,415

Grand total (all categories, 2020–21 to 2025–26): approximately $1.69 million.

Additional capital note provided by TRC: Waitara River upgrade $27,548.

Significant expenditure has therefore occurred on related flood, river, and adaptation work. The absence of comparative infrastructure-versus-retreat analysis and of ratepayer-impact modelling is not explained by a lack of activity in the broader subject area.

5. Significance

This response is consistent with a wider pattern documented across multiple New Zealand councils and central agencies:

- Money is spent on consultants, river works, flood-related activity, and climate adaptation planning.
- Formal comparative analysis of major infrastructure protection options versus managed retreat or property acquisition pathways is frequently absent.
- Modelling of long-term impacts on ratepayers, property values, and council rating revenue from retreat/buyout pathways is frequently absent.

Taranaki Regional Council's written statements — "no analysis has been undertaken" and "no modelling has been undertaken" — add a further clear data point to that national record.

6. Source Documents

- Taranaki Regional Council letter IN/55091, 28 July 2026 (Document: TRCID-326124541-2141).
- Attached spreadsheet: Amount by Product and Financial Year (July–June), supplied by TRC in response to Question 1.

Public-interest transparency record prepared from primary LGOIMA response material. July 2026.